

復活的盼望

信經：降至陰間、第三天從死裏復活

澄清：何謂「降至陰間」？

- 未見於早期的信經（e.g., 古羅馬信經）
- 有人會將此信條連結起彼得前書3:19，認為耶穌下到陰間傳福音給已死的聖人聽。
- 對於基督的死與復活之間的種種猜想，基於沒有聖經根據，我們都不會接受。
- 對於今天的信徒來說，那位第三天從死裏復活的基督，正正就是那位降至陰間，又拜壞了陰間權勢的主。是以「降至陰間」與「從死裏復活」是個一氣呵成的動作；所論到的，也是同一個「復活主」的訊息。

第一世紀猶太人的復活盼望

- 從背約到被擄（申命記 30:11-20）
- 苦難問題：假如耶和華連耶路撒冷也不保守，假如上帝的榮光離開錫安的聖殿，以色列還可以有什麼指望呢——屍骨復活的盼望（以西結書 37:1-14）
- 回歸後的改革（尼希米記、以斯拉記）
- 苦難問題：改革後的以色列為何仍然受列國的欺凌
- 出路：為律法而死的義人在末後會被神復活過來，分享神國的福樂（瑪迦比二書 7; 但以理書 12:1-2）
- 是以以色列人相信，義人復活的日子，就是神服興以色列國及更新整個創造的時刻。
- 當義人耶穌經歷了以色列國所經歷的誤解和逼迫之後，被神將他復活過來，這對猶太人來說，就等於神在耶穌身上開始了他對以色列國和對整個創造的復興和更新。

保羅對復活信仰的詮釋——林前 15:1-58

1. 初熟的果子：復活的盼望
2. 基督的得勝：苦難和死亡不再是生命的本相
3. 盼望中生活：對信仰的盡忠並非徒然

認信：耶穌已經復活了！從此苦難和死亡不再是我們生命的本相。在復活的盼望中，我們對信仰的忠心和認真從不是徒然的。

The Hope of Resurrection

Creed: Descended to the dead, on the third day he rose again.

Clarification: “Descended to the Dead?”

- This clause is absent from an older version of the Apostles’ Creed (i.e. Old Roman Creed).
- Some speculate that this clause has to do with Jesus descending to hell and preaching the gospel to the passed-away saints (1 Pet 3:19).
- We consider this pure speculation.
- To us, the Jesus who descended to the dead is none other than the Christ who destroyed him who holds the power of death and then rose again from the dead. The two clauses express the same resurrection hope.

Resurrection Hope in First-Century Judaism

- From covenant breach to exile (Duet 30:11-20)
- Theodicy: If God does not protect his own people, if he left his temple to be destroyed by the Gentiles, what hope can Israel have? The hope of national resurrection (Eze 37:1-14).
- Reformation following return from exile (Nehemiah and Ezra).
- Theodicy: Why is Israel still in a state of exile even after she repents?
- Answer: Those who died in order to be faithful to the Law shall be resurrected when God returns to restore Israel and the world (2 Maccabees 7; Dan 12:1-2).
- Consequently, when Jesus suffered under the hands of Gentiles, died as a righteous man, and subsequently vindicated by being resurrected from death, a first-century Jew would naturally interpret this as the inauguration of the eschatological restoration.

Paul’s Understanding of the Resurrection Hope
(1 Cor 15:1-58)

1. The hope of resurrection
2. Victory of God over suffering and death
3. Faithful living under the resurrection hope

Confession: Jesus has risen! From now on, suffering and death is no longer the essence of our existence. Under the hope of resurrection, our loyalty and faithfulness to God is not in vain.